

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-33 are pending, of which claims 21-31 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 4-6 and 10 are amended herein to even more clearly define the invention in a manner that distinguishes over the art.

The amendments clarify that the flux that is monitored emanates from the rope at a position between the magnetic poles. As set forth more fully in the August 30 Amendment, Applicants do not believe that the cited art discloses or suggests such a feature.

Further, DE 39 04 612 A1, which is of record in the subject application, and a translation of which is submitted with the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, relates to a device for testing several parallel steel cables. The steel cables are continuously magnetized over a limited length essentially until saturation is achieved with the aid of several magnetic fields (21, 22), and the magnetic fields are respectively measured. The measurement is divided into a differential measurement for determining magnetic stray fields and a measurement of the magnetic flux in the steel cables (3). The differential measuring coils (28, 29) lie within the region of the axially extending field lines (30, 31). The flux measuring coils (23, 24, 25, 26) are arranged on the permanent magnets (14-18). According to that document, these *separate but simultaneous* measurements of damage make it possible to gain accurate information regarding the condition of the steel cables.

Therefore, DE 39 04 612 A1 neither discloses nor suggests the claimed features regarding monitoring magnetic flux at a position between the poles along a longitudinal direction of the rope. By monitoring the flux at a position between the poles, the claimed invention is able to discern a qualitative indication of defect using a single measurement.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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